

for me here to distinguish the varieties
of your species well. The dry materials
or the few living specimens - I saw
or cultivate do not admit of this.
I know from our *N. alba*, what
a great difficulty it is to distinguish
the real varieties, or to find them
to I am constantly at work about
the *Nymphsacum*, I altered some what
those data which I published 1854 on
N. alba. I found several new varieties
and, one of a dark crimson colour of
the plants like *N. rubra* Boissier?
which I cultivate since in the botanical
garden here, I have now a splendid
specimen, the largest, I think, which
exists, and the cultivation of living plants
is nearly complete. *N. odora* I saw
often in the gardens and examined it
in a splendid living state at Berlin
in the garden of Boissier; I have only young
plants here, grown from seeds which
I received last autumn by Mrs. Higgin-
son (*Ida Hyson*?), which I hope will flower
next year.

The principal distinguishing marks
of the chief varieties I take from
morphological characters, of second rate
importance all colour or physiological
differences, size, rate of growth and
the like. In the most cases every spe-
cimen gets small or tall according
to treatment. That can be seen every

Koenigsberg in Pr.
25th of Sept 1865

My Dear Sir

Many thanks for your letter of the
8th of Sept, which I received yester-
day night.

Be sure that the bright crimson
seeds, which you sent me, are unripe,
therefore these crimson colour, which
all the seeds of all species of
Nymphsacum at a certain time, before
they are ripe, have and therefore
the cupshaped arillus, which is not
yet grown up - as regards the spe-
cies to which the seeds belong, I do
not doubt, that it is *N. odora*.
An arillus covering only half the
seed and the crimson colour are
no mark of distinction to any spe-
cies. I rather unripe fruit of *N.*
odora and you will find always the
arillus half grown at a certain age
and the seed crimson.

Your remark, that you have in
Calle Masario an inodorous *Nymphsacum*
with a tuberosous rootstock and
no arillus at all! is most interesting.

i.e. as to the latter two points.
Its rigidity small, it varies
too much, to make it a mark of
distinction and depends too much
upon the age of the flower and the
weather. Nymph. when smells the
first day of the flower very sweetly,
the second less and stinks often
the fourth or fifth day. If the
weather is cold and rainy it smells
often not at all. But if the plants
of Lake Ontario has no stinks,
it will belong to an other genus.
I know no Nymphsacra without
stinks. Have you seen the plant?
I should suppose that it was
a Nymphsacra or that some mistake
was about it. I know nothing
of such a plant.

You ask: what is Nymph. in the
Sims? What I know is little. I
saw no authentic specimen; it does
not exist in my herbarium of Europe,
as far as I saw. Another has it not.
It plants under the name of *N. nitida*
in the herbarium of Bernhardt, now
in the Berlin Garden of Leipzig, is
a small *N. odora*. The flower
measures only 67 mm in diameter.

It plants under the name of *N. nitida*
which I saw, but not of flower, ~~at~~
in the Berlin garden of Gent, was
certainly *N. odora*. Sims distin-
guishes it from *N. odora* by its per-
pendicular root. Now every young plant
of *N. odora*, grown in soft or very muddy
ground, has a perpendicular root
even of a foot in length. Only later it
begins to require a slanting or hori-
zontal ripens. Therefore the plant of Mr.
Anderson, which had the perpendicular root
could well have been a young *N. odora*.
The other character, that it ~~needs~~
"seems" to require the heat of a stove, which
N. odora was hardy, as Sims says,
is given in such a doubtful manner
- "seems" - that Sims himself does
not seem to have put much reliance
upon it. Atm. (North. New. Journ. III 290)
says: *radix caecidiosa, apice inflexa*; this
character vanishes quite away, because
the rays of the stigma, or rather the
processes of the chapselle ^{chapselle} in
a characteristic manner ~~the~~ ^{their} direction
every day of the flower in all species.
If it is *N. odora* it is the first day
of the flower nearly perfect, the second
a little inflexed, the third ~~very~~
more inflexed, and the fourth still more.
I am very glad, that you have
set to work about your Nymphsacra!
The Nymphsacra. It is impossible

Day in most species or rather in all.

I asked my friend Engelman to set about examining the varieties of your northern species and he seems to be also at work. He sent me just splendid drawings of *Nelumb. Indiana* and dried specimens of *Nuphar polysepalum*.

Have you ~~not~~ any means of procuring for me 'good seeds', which are able to germinate, of *Cabomba*? I should not mind any expense. The best would be to send them in wet powder of charcoal, in which way I received good seeds of *Potamogeton* and *Nym. odorata* from your country. I do not think, that the seeds of *Cabomba* would bear to be kept dry for any length of time, without losing their germinating power.

I am this moment or more occupied by studying living plants of several species of *Nymphaeaceae*, which I received from Java and Ceylon, that I can not set about to lay before you at any length my questions about *N. odorata* and your other northern species of *Nymphaeaceae*. But if you permit me, I will do so

in winter, which, I am very
sorry to say, is approaching
quietly; after 5 or 6 weeks
we may see snow already com-
ing every thing.

Receiving my dear Sir, my best
thanks for your kind letter of
the 10th of April 1863 and the
picks of *M. elegans*, which were
most welcome. As I intended
to answer your letter more in
detail, for which I had not the
time that moment, I believe was
used it to infinity.

For raising the species of some
doubtful *Asymptotaceae* I took
refuge to hybridising them, and
all warmhouses and all basins
in the open air are full of hybrids
or mongrels. The experimenting
with them takes up the greater
part of every before noon, but the
results are most interesting to me
and those will become useful to
the the description questions I put
and particularly to the physiological
part of my monograph.

Believe me, dear Sir, yours most
truly and with greatest regard
Robt. Caspary